



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture

January 12, 1998



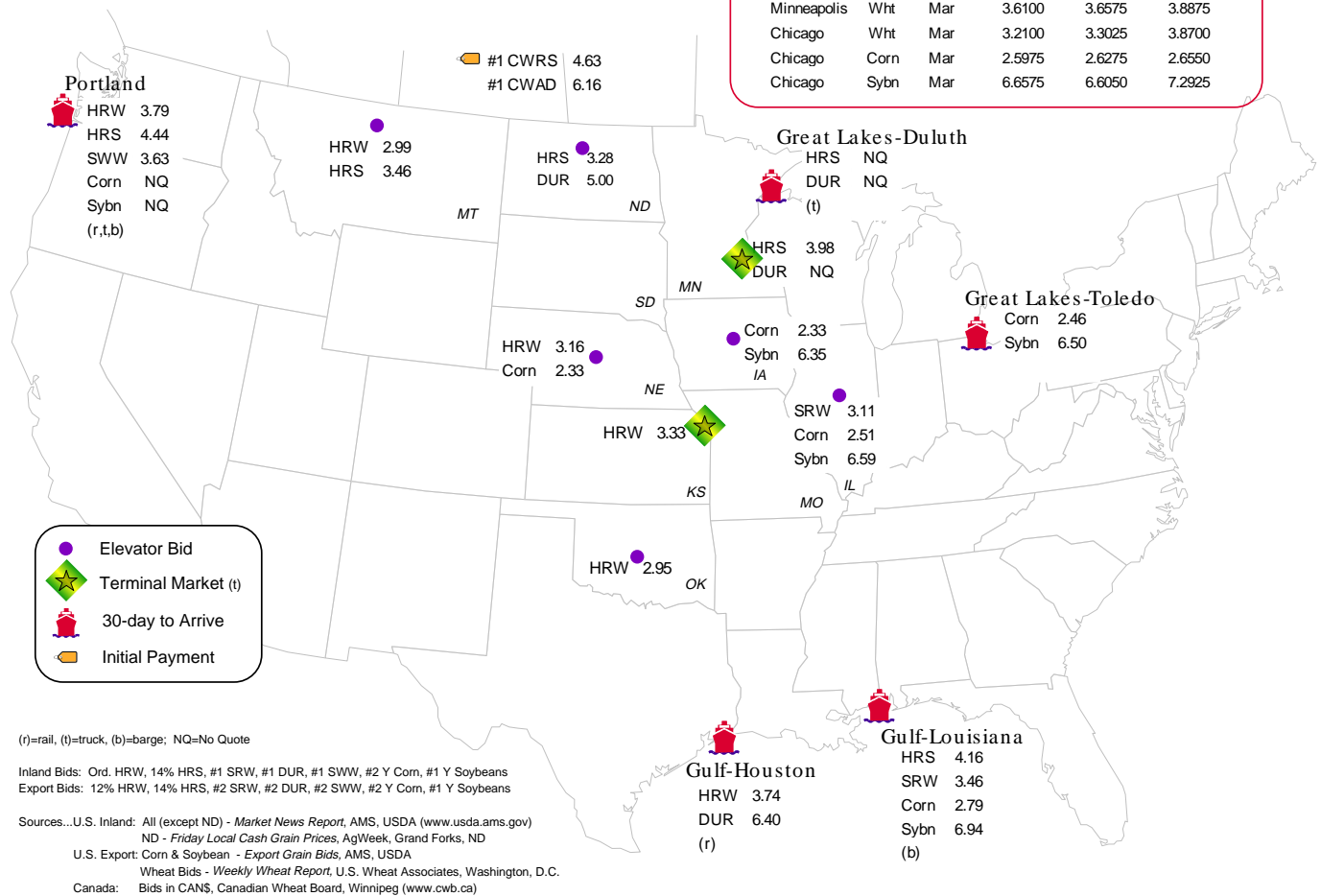
UPCOMING EVENTS...

Jan. 27-29	Grain & Feed Industry Conference CA Grain & Feed Assn.	Monterey, CA	dboggs@ns.net.
Feb. 20-24	International Specialized Trade Fair Grains '98	Moscow, Russia	yamfid@dol.ru
Feb. 21-25	Grain Elevator and Processing Society-GEAPS Exchange '98	San Antonio, TX	(619) 339-4625 Info@geaps.com
Feb. 22-24	3 rd Annual Corn Growers Assn. And Soybean Assn. Convention	Long Beach, CA	(314) 275-9915
Feb. 23-24	USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum	Washington, DC	agforum@oce.usda.gov (202) 720-3050
Mar. 6-9	Viet Nam Agrofood '98	Ho-Chi-Minh-City Viet Nam	fairtrade.messe@t-online.de
Mar. 8-10	102 nd NGFA Convention	Orlando, FL	www.ngfa.org (202) 289-0873
May 4-6	American Feed Industry Assn. Annual Convention	Dallas, TX	(703) 524-0810

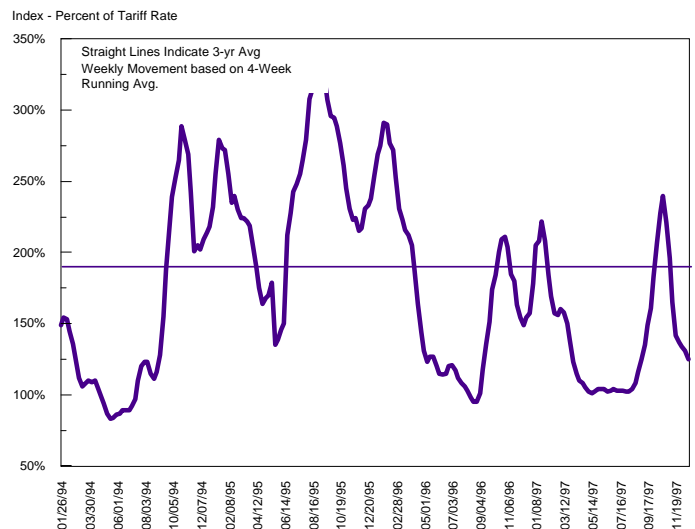
This report is prepared by Karl Hacker, Agricultural Economist. Other contributors to this report include Nick Marathon, Agricultural Economist, and Bill Dunton, Traffic Management Specialist, AMS, Transportation and Marketing Division - (202) 690-1303. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. Reach us on the Internet at www.usda.gov/ams/tmd/grain.htm.

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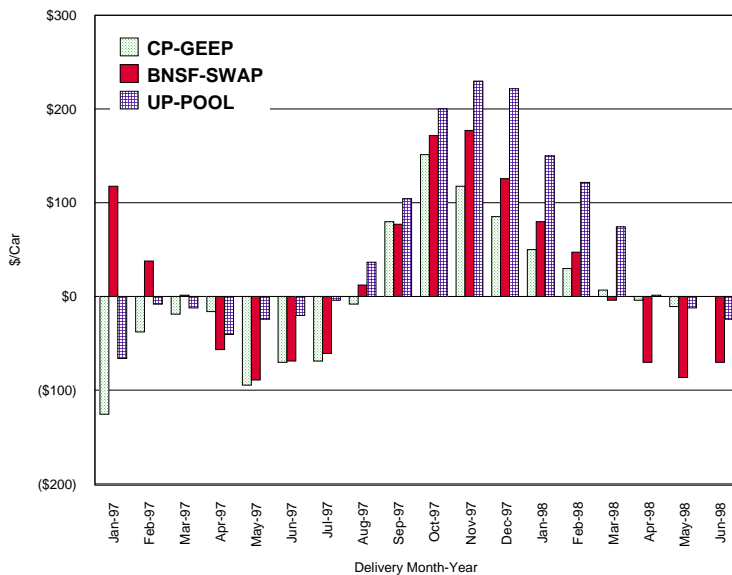
Grain Bid Summary



Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River



Secondary Rail Market Bids



Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Feb-98		Mar-98	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
BNSF-COT	18,290	68%	19,891	10%
UP-GCAS	5,400	49%		
Source: Transportation & Marketing Division/AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

Secondary Rail Car Market

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	Delivery Period			
	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98
BNSF-COT	\$(269)	\$(210)	\$(184)	\$(114)
CP-GEEP	\$(63)	\$(73)	\$(70)	\$(25)
UP-Pool		\$(55)	\$(55)	\$(40)

Source: TMD/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

Railroad Car 'Auction' Results

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Feb-98	Apr-98	May-98
COT/N. Wheat	no bid	no bid	no bid
COT/S. Corn	no bid	no bid	no bid
GCAS/Region 2	no bid		
GCAS/Region 4	no bid		

Source: TMD/AMS USDA. Data from www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com, (COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)

Southbound Barge Freight Contract Rates*

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
1/2/98	no trades reported		

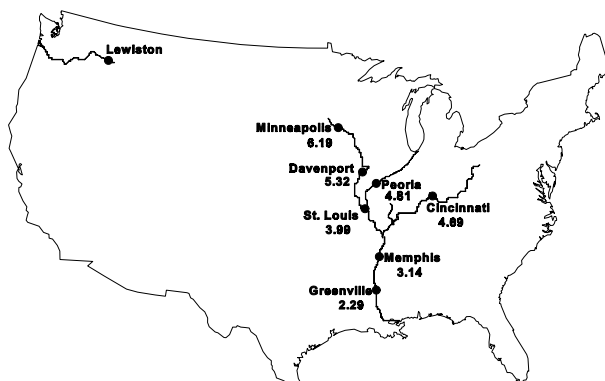
Southbound Barge Freight Rates

	1/7/98	12/17/97	Feb. '98	Apr. '98
Twin Cities	nq	nq	nq	165
Mid-Mississippi	nq	nq	nq	128
Illinois River	106	112	122	118
St. Louis-Cairo	86	90	91	101
Lower Ohio	91	105	103	110
Cairo-Memphis	86	90	90	98

Source: Transportation & Marketing Division/AMS/USDA
nq- no quote

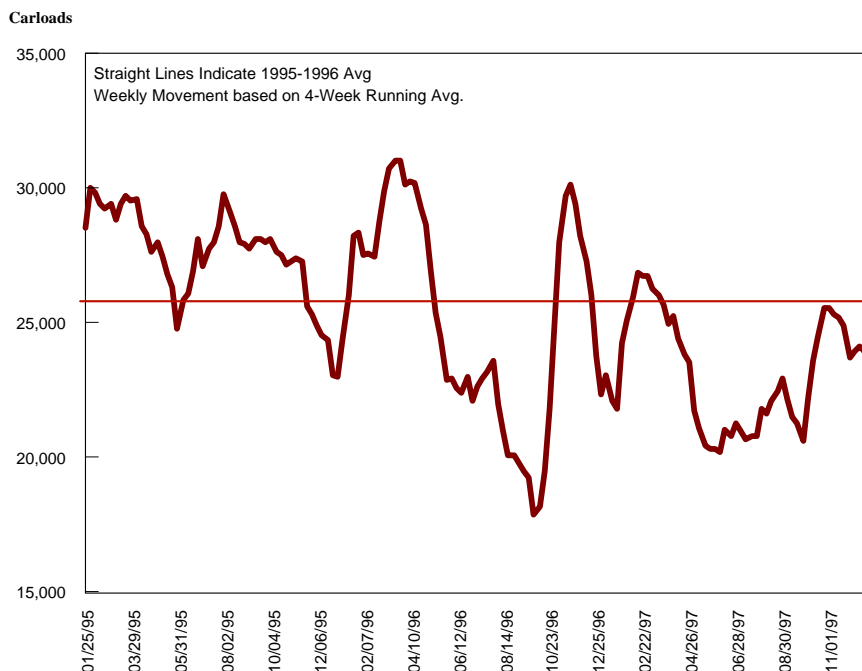
* Merchants Exchange of St. Louis Daily Barge Call Session

Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates
Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'



Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
12/29/97	24,523
12/27/97	15,622
01/03/98	20,251
Year to Date - 1998	20,251
Year to Date - 1997	22,993
Total 1997	1,203,581
Total 1996	1,304,678
Source: American Association of Railroads	



Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Carloads

			<u>East</u>					<u>West</u>		<u>Canada</u>	
	Conrail	CSXT	IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP		
12/27/97	371	2,024	721	2,056	5,665	425	4,101	1,595	2,725		
This Week Last Year	447	1,636	1,578	2,136	5,999	406	5,365	1,511	2,193		
1997 YTD	29,922	118,581	80,255	125,519	431,129	34,701	379,888	171,518	272,156		
1996 YTD	31,733	111,509	67,268	131,518	429,616	30,009	433,470	144,010	273,142		
1997 Total	29,922	118,581	80,255	125,519	431,129	34,701	379,888	171,518	272,156		
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	67,268	131,518	429,616	30,009	433,470	144,010	273,142		

Source: American Association of Railroads

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

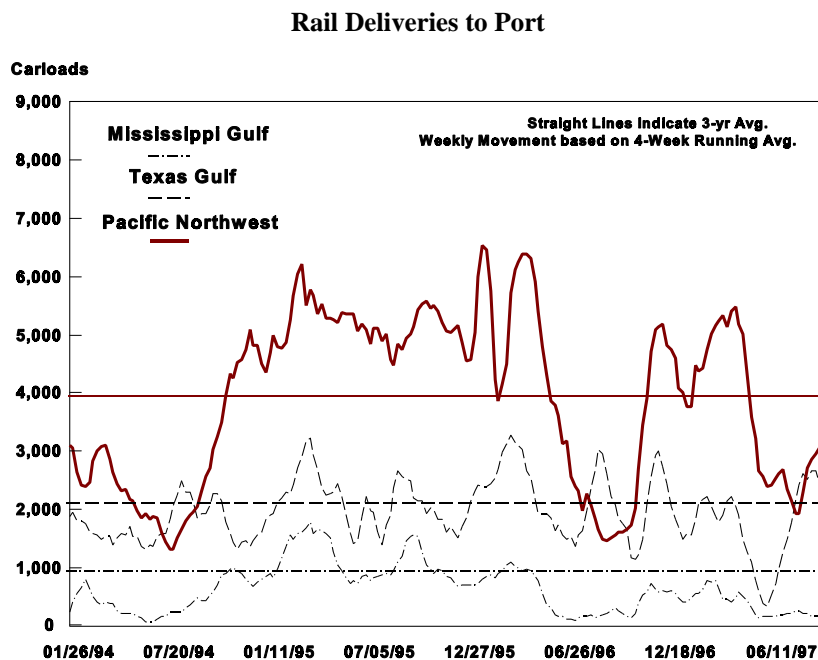
January, 1998

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
11/20/97	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,588	\$23.48	\$0.78
11/06/97	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,027	\$36.54	\$1.21
11/17/97	46531	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,450	\$13.16	\$0.44
11/16/97	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,691	\$33.49	\$1.11
11/16/97	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,405	\$30.90	\$1.02
09/16/97	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
01/01/98	33110	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,600	\$12.77	\$0.45
10/01/97	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,600	\$20.75	\$0.73
09/16/97	31030	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,915	\$23.26	\$0.82
11/16/97	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,080	\$27.95	\$0.92
11/16/97	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

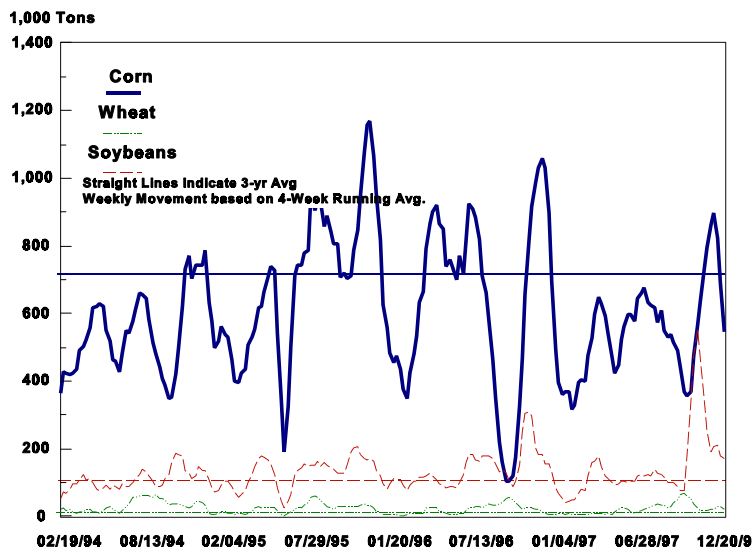
Source: www.nbsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Rail Deliveries to Port				
Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
12/17/97	649	1,592	4,226	275
12/24/97	467	1,694	3,126	352
12/31/97	325	2,397	2,097	164
YTD 1997	20,491	94,672	196,717	9,361
YTD 1996	25,899	113,804	199,709	11,304
Total 1996	25,560	112,397	197,897	11,090
Total 1995	57,124	111,028	268,783	15,437
Source: Transportation & Marketing Division/AMS/USDA				
YTD-Year-to-Date				



Barge Movements - Locks 27

Barge Grain Movements
for week ending 1/3/97

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL		closed for winter		
Winfield, MO (L25)		closed for repairs		
Alton, IL (L26)	208	2	143	352
Granite City, IL (L27)	210	24	146	358
Illinois River (L8)	198	2	101	301
Ohio (L52)	14	8	30	108
Arkansas (L1)	0	10	16	26
1998 YTD	225	19	192	491
1997 YTD	312	16	87	508
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315
Total 1996	34,210	2,348	8,297	48,963

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.
Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

U.S. Export Balances* (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<u>Wheat</u>						<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>			
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
01/01/98	1,636	747	834	735	210	4,161	6,494	5,081	15,736
This Week Year Ago	603	197	830	617	201	2,447	9,394	5,393	17,234
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
97/98 YTD	5,984	3,621	3,913	3,524	841	17,883	12,764	13,530	44,177
96/97 YTD	5,417	3,333	5,126	3,749	548	18,174	16,367	11,273	45,814
95/96 Total	9,867	6,792	8,918	6,443	897	32,917	55,769	23,550	112,236
94/95 Total	10,157	5,453	7,686	5,837	893	30,026	54,742	23,410	108,178

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service YTD-Year-to-Date (ffas.usda.gov) Crop Year: Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31

Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
12/25/97	220	0	8	80	437	538	129	5	0
1997 YTD **	11,156	9,728	1,764	6,349	28,183	18,658	5,106	1,001	1,014
1996 YTD **	13,036	10,468	1,888	7,097	35,444	17,345	7,564	1,162	930
% of Last Year	86%	93%	93%	89%	80%	108%	68%	86%	109%
1996 Total	12,803	10,550	1,820	7,207	36,634	17,687	7,766	1,226	772

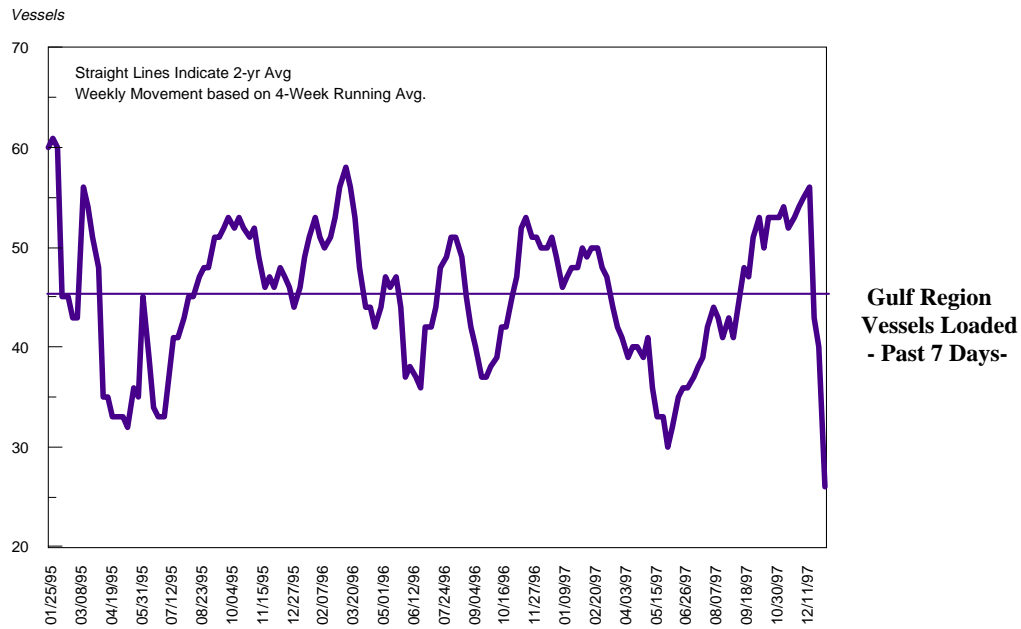
Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service *Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago ** YTD-Year-to-Date

Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

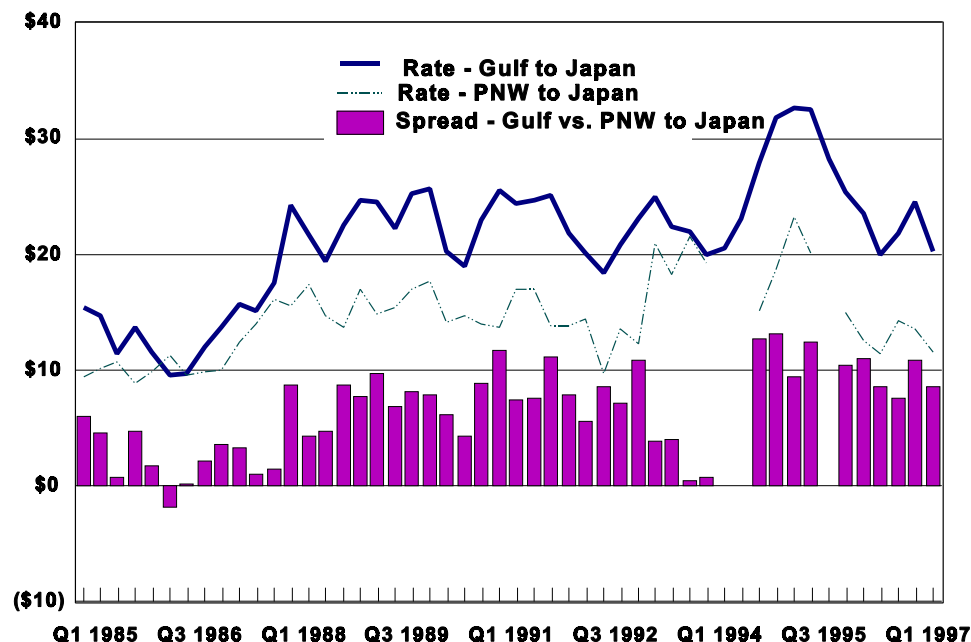
	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 12/24/97			
Vancouver	3,025	519	593
Prince Rupert	1,773	0	252
Prairie Direct	370	152	149
Thunder Bay	299	267	107
St. Lawrence	2,629	948	103
1997 YTD Exports	8,096	1,886	1,204
1996 YTD Exports	5,690	1,815	1,601
% of Last Year	142%	104%	75%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission *Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago ** YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31



Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels									
	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next		Loaded	Due Next
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>7-Days</u>	<u>10-Days</u>
01/01/98	n/a	n/a	n/a				12	5	1
01/08/98	41	46	79				12	9	2
1997 Range	(11..52)	(25..61)	(31..89)						
1996 Range	(11..67)	(27..61)	(38..88)						
1995 Range	(11..67)	(22..64)	(31..90)						
1997 Avg	33	45	58				12	10	3
1996 Avg	46	46	63						
1995 Avg	31	46	61						
Source: Transportation & Marketing - AMS - USDA									

US\$/Metric Ton

Quarterly Ocean
Freight Rates**Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates**

Weighted Average Rates & Vessel Size, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1997 3 rd Qtr	1996 3 rd Qtr	% Change		1997 3 rd Qtr	1996 3 rd Qtr	% Change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$22.55	\$23.59	-4%	Japan	\$12.92	\$13.74	-6%
Mexico	\$14.47	\$15.09	-4%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea	\$19.23	\$20.83	-8%
Venezuela	\$13.78	\$16.79	-18%				
N. Europe	\$13.23	\$11.86	12%	Argentina to			
N. Africa	\$15.44	\$19.59	-22%	N. Europe	\$14.83	\$16.86	-12%
				Japan	\$25.56	\$30.80	-17%

Source: Transportation & Marketing - AMS - USDA

Ocean Freight Rates

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Vessel Size (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
St. Lawrence	W Italy	Wheat	January	30,000	\$16.00
Gulf	North Europe	Grains	January	50,000	\$10.25
Gulf	China	Grains	January	55,000	\$20.50
Gulf	Taiwan	Grains	January	54,000	\$20.00
Gulf	Japan	Grains	January	54,000	\$22.00
Gulf	Taiwan	Grains	January	54,000	\$20.00

Source: Maritime Research Inc.